

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 553  
By Johnson R

A RESOLUTION to recognize the dedication ceremony for the tallest Veterans Flag Memorial in Tennessee, to be held May 17, 2003, in Madisonville.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly are pleased to join with all patriotic Tennesseans in recognizing the courage and sacrifice of the veterans of this nation's Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, in early January 2003, Madisonville City Commissioner Irad Lee proposed a veterans flag memorial to the Madisonville Board of Commissioners, such memorial to be located on a seven-acre site donated by Douglas Hale, owner of Haven Hill Memorial Gardens, in an undeveloped portion of the cemetery fronting on the U.S. 411 bypass; though no funding was available at the time, the Board decided to hold the site pending the securing of funding; and

WHEREAS, since that time, an amount approaching \$60,000 has been donated by the citizens of Madisonville and Monroe County, and technical advice, construction materials, and goods and services have been donated by local businesses; and

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WHEREAS, a lighted 40-foot brick wall facing the U.S. 411 bypass identifies the site as a Veterans Flag Memorial; above the wall a 150-foot flagpole displays an American flag measuring 30 feet by 60 feet, or 1,800 square feet; and

WHEREAS, surrounding the base of the flagpole is a five-foot-wide brick walk whose brick pavers are being engraved with the names of veterans; no American veteran's name will be excluded if remembrance at the site is desired; and

WHEREAS, the site also contains a black granite rock with the words, "One Nation Under God", engraved in gold; the rock is surrounded with five individual, engraved granite seals representing each of the military branches; an upright bronze sign measuring two feet by two feet and containing words of tribute completes the site; and

WHEREAS, the flagpole, which is believed to be the tallest in Tennessee, and perhaps the tallest veterans memorial flagpole in the South, was set by the city maintenance crew on the first day of Operation Iraqi Freedom; the flag was raised that day, prior to the dedication ceremony, because it seemed the appropriate thing to do; the flag, delivered from the Texas manufacturer in five pieces, has reportedly been seen from five miles away when being flown; and

WHEREAS, the dedication ceremony for the veterans memorial will include the burial of a time capsule, the distribution of 2,000 hand-held United States flags by the local Boy Scout Troop, and the presentation and hoisting of the American flag; dignitaries will include U.S. Congressman John Duncan, Jr., Tennessee Assistant Adjutant Brigadier General Jim Welch, Tennessee Commissioner of Veterans Affairs John Keys, as well as other state and local officials; and

WHEREAS, the determined efforts of the citizens and Madisonville and Monroe County to appropriately honor the brave Americans who have served their country throughout its history is worthy of our respect and approbation; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we recognize the patriotic fervor and hard work of the citizens of Madisonville and Monroe County to erect a magnificent Veterans Flag Memorial to appropriately commemorate the valor and unselfish sacrifices of generations of men and women of the United States Armed Forces in the cause of freedom and the defeat of tyranny.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we offer our thanks and appreciation for their vigorous support of our military personnel and veterans and our best wishes for a successful and moving dedication ceremony.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.